

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A user interface (UI) for output by a client and for display by a display device, the UI comprising:

a plurality of representations of content items, wherein:

each said representation is selectable by a user to navigate to a corresponding said content item; and

each said content item has a duration when streamed for output by the client; and

at least one pictorial representation that:

corresponds to a respective said content item; and

indicates a time remaining in the duration of the respective said content item.

2. The UI as recited in claim 1, wherein one or more said content items are stored in a storage device on the client.

3. The UI as recited in claim 1, wherein one or more said content items are streamed from a head end.

4. The UI as recited in claim 1, wherein:

one said content item is stored in a stored device on the client;

another said content item is streamed from a head end to the client.

5. The UI as recited in claim 1, wherein:
- the pictorial representation is displayable as a segment indicating the duration;
- and
- the segment has a portion indicating an elapsed time and a portion indicating a time remaining in the output of the content.
6. The UI as recited in claim 1, wherein:
- each said representation includes one or more frames of the respective said content item; and
- the pictorial representation is for display over the one or more frames.
7. The UI as recited in claim 1, wherein the pictorial representation is for display adjacent to the corresponding said representation.
8. The UI as recited in claim 1, wherein one or more said content items is a television program.
9. A set-top box comprising an EPG application having computer-executable instructions that, when executed, output the UI as described in claim 1.
10. One or more computer-readable media comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed on a computer, direct the computer to generate an EPG

for output that describes a plurality of content items, wherein:

the EPG includes a representation for each said content item; and

at least one said representation has a corresponding pictorial representation that indicates elapsed time and time remaining in a stream, when output, of a respective said content item relative to a duration of the stream.

11. The one or more computer-readable media as described in claim 10, wherein the pictorial representation is displayable as a segment that indicates the duration, the segment having a portion indicating the elapsed time and a remaining portion indicating the time remaining.

12. The one or more computer-readable media as described in claim 10, wherein the representation is selectable by a user to navigate to a corresponding said content item.

13. The one or more computer-readable media as described in claim 10, wherein:

the representation includes one or more frames of the content; and

the pictorial representation is for display over the one or more frames.

14. The one or more computer-readable media as described in claim 10, wherein the pictorial representation is for display adjacent to the representation.

15. The one or more computer-readable media as described in claim 10, wherein one or more said content items is a television program.

16. A method comprising generating:  
an electronic program guide (EPG) from data describing a plurality of content items for streaming from a head end to a client; and  
from the EPG:

a display of a described of each said content item; and  
a pictorial representation of a current progress state in the streaming of each said content item from the head end.

17. The method as described in claim 16, wherein the current progress state is elapsed time and time remaining in the streaming of the content item relative to duration in the streaming of the content item.

18. The method as described in claim 16, wherein:  
the pictorial representation is displayable as a segment indicating the duration of the streaming; and  
the segment has a portion indicating an elapsed time in the streaming and a portion indicating a time remaining in the streaming.

19. The method as described in claim 16, wherein:  
the pictorial representation is displayable as a bar indicating the duration of the

streaming; and

the bar has a first portion indicating an elapsed time in the streaming and a second portion indicating a time remaining in the streaming.

20. The method as described in claim 16, wherein the description is selectable by a user to navigate to corresponding said content item.

21. The method as described in claim 16, wherein:  
the description includes one or more frames of the content item; and  
the pictorial representation is for display over the one or more frames.

22. The method as described in claim 16, wherein the pictorial representation is for display adjacent to the description.

23. The method as described in claim 16, wherein the plurality of content items includes a television program.

24. The method as described in claim 16, wherein EPG is further configured to display one or more characteristics of the plurality of content items selected from the group consisting of:

a title;  
a story line;  
a textual description;

a production credit;  
a critic's opinion;  
a review;  
a recommendation;  
a duration;  
a start time;  
a stop time;  
an elapsed time in the output of the content;  
a time remaining in the output of the content;  
a genre;  
a rating;  
a performer;  
a director; and  
any combination thereof.

25. The method as described in claim 16, wherein the generating further comprises:

determining a start time and a duration of the streaming from the EPG data;  
querying a timer to determine a current time; and  
configuring the pictorial representation based on the start time, the duration, and the current time.

26. The method as described in claim 16, wherein:

the content is received at a client from the head end; and

the pictorial representation indicates the current progress state in recordation of the plurality of content at the client.

27. The method as described in claim 16, wherein:

the generating is performed at the head-end; and

the method further comprises communicating the EPG from the head-end to a client.

28. The method as described in claim 16, wherein the generating is performed by a client.

29. One or more computer-readable media comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, perform the method as recited in claim 16.

30. A method comprising:

receiving a plurality of content items described in an electronic program guide (EPG) and available for streaming from a head end to a client; and

generating a pictorial representation quantifying a current progress available for streaming of at least one said content item from the head end.

31. The method as described in claim 30, wherein the pictorial representation quantifies how much of the at least one said content item has and has not been streamed

from the head end.

32. The method as described in claim 30, wherein:  
at least one said content item is a TV program for playback at the client; and  
the pictorial representation quantifies a time remaining for display of the TV program.

33. One or more computer-readable media comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, perform the method as recited in claim 30.

34. A client comprising:  
an input interface for receiving one or more of a plurality of content items;  
an output interface for providing an output to a display device;  
a processor; and  
memory configured to maintain an EPG for output at the output interface, wherein  
the EPG includes at least one content-progress indicator that:

corresponds to a respective one of a plurality of content items, wherein  
each said content item has a duration when streamed for output at the output  
interface; and

is displayable as a pictorial representation indicating elapsed time and time  
remaining in the stream of the respective one said content item relative to duration  
of the stream of the respective one said content item.



35. The client as described in claim 34, wherein the memory is further configured to maintain the content.

36. The client as described in claim 34, wherein:  
the content item is broadcast; and  
the input interface is a tuner for receiving the broadcast content item over the network and the EPG from a carousel file system.

37. The client as described in claim 34, wherein the network is an Internet.

38. The client as described in claim 34, wherein the pictorial representation is displayable as a segment representing the duration, the segment having a portion indicating the elapsed time and a portion indicating the time remaining.

39. An apparatus comprising:  
means for generating an electronic program guide (EPG) from data describing a plurality of content items, the EPG including a description of each said content item; and  
means for generating a pictorial quantification of a remainder of at least one said content item that is available for streaming from a head end to the client.